



## **Media Mentions - Nov 20, 2014 (Coverage Nov 17-20, 2014)**

### **Consolidated List of Articles about FirstNet Board Finance Committee FY15 Funding, Subcommittee Hearing, and the AWS-3 Auction**

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#### **FY15 Funding**

##### **Fierce Wireless Tech: FirstNet Gets Go-ahead to Fund Key RFP, Consultation Activities in 2015**

<http://www.fiercewireless.com/tech/story/firstnet-gets-go-ahead-fund-key-rfp-consultation-activities-2015/2014-11-19>

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Finance Committee gave FirstNet management the OK to spend up to \$86.2 million in fiscal year 2015, including \$42.5 million on a comprehensive Request for Proposal (RFP) and certain network development activities. Another \$22.3 million is allocated toward consultation, planning and outreach activities, and up to \$21.4 million may be spent on FirstNet organizational infrastructure, project support and administrative functions.

##### **Radio Resource Media Group: Finance Committee Approves FirstNet's 2015 Funding Guidance**

[http://www.rrmediagroup.com/newsArticle.cfm?news\\_id=11424](http://www.rrmediagroup.com/newsArticle.cfm?news_id=11424)

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Finance Committee approved fiscal year 2015 funding guidance encompassing up to \$86.2 million in spending. Under the approved resolution, FirstNet management may spend up to \$42.5 million on comprehensive request for proposal (RFP) and certain network development activities; \$22.3 million on consultation, planning and outreach activities; and up to \$21.4 million on FirstNet organizational infrastructure, project support and administrative functions.

##### **Fierce Mobile Government: FirstNet OKs \$86.2M for Continued Development of Nationwide, Public Safety Wireless Network**

<http://www.fiercemobilegovernment.com/story/firstnet-oks-862m-continued-development-nationwide-public-safety-wireless-n/2014-11-18>

Up to \$86.2 million can be spent in fiscal 2015 to help support development of a high-speed, nationwide public safety wireless communications network, following the recent passage of a resolution.

##### **Urgent Communications: FirstNet Devotes Half Its Budget to RFP Development**

<http://urgentcomm.com/ntiafirstnet/firstnet-devotes-half-its-budget-rfp-development>

FirstNet's finance committee allocates \$42.5 million and \$22.3 million, respectively, toward completing its two primary goals for 2015: developing the comprehensive request for proposals (RFP) that identify partners for the public-safety broadband network and conducting state consultations and outreach.

#### **TR Daily (Summary): FirstNet Finance Committee Authorizes \$86.2M in Spending for FY 2015**

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Finance Committee today authorized the authority to spend \$86.2 million for fiscal year 2015, which began Oct. 1, which is less than the approximately \$120 million approved.

#### **House Homeland Security Subcommittee Hearing Nov 18, 2014**

##### **Urgent Communications: Congressional Subcommittee Pushes for FirstNet Timeline, More SWICs**

<http://urgentcomm.com/ntiafirstnet/congressional-subcommittee-pushes-firstnet-timeline-more-swics>

Members of Congress pressed FirstNet Acting General Manager TJ Kennedy for a projected timeframe regarding the state-consultation process during Tuesday's U.S. House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on the progress of interoperable communications since the tragic events of 9/11.

##### **Fierce Mobile Government: First Phase of State Consultations to be Finished before Fiscal 2016, FirstNet Head Says**

<http://www.fiercemobilegovernment.com/story/first-phase-state-consultations-be-finished-fiscal-2016-firstnet-head-says/2014-11-19>

The First Responder Network Authority has set a goal of finishing the first phase of consultations with state government officials – a critical component in developing a nationwide, wireless broadband public safety network – by the end of fiscal 2015, the head of the congressionally mandated, independent organization said. "We want to be able to finish this phase one and get into phase two," T.J. Kennedy, FirstNet's acting general manager, [said](#) in testimony before a House Homeland Security subcommittee Nov. 18. He added there are likely to be four rounds of consultations.

Related Link: NASCIO Weekly What Techbytes: <http://community.nascio.org/blogs/mitch-herckis/2014/11/19/weekly-what-lame-duck-cyber-e-rate-nist-standards-firstnet-and-more>

##### **Communications Daily (Summary): Hill Democrats Stress Need for Funding SWICs**

A top FirstNet executive defended the network's progress Tuesday before the House Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee. Lawmakers dug in with questions on timelines and broader interoperability coordination struggles. Democrats worried about a lack of funding for state efforts and called for legislative action. "Progress made is in jeopardy," said ranking member Donald Payne, D-N.J., in his opening statement. "In recent years, states could rely on the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program to support their Statewide Interoperability Coordinators, SWIC, and other communications governance

structures. But that program has been eliminated.” Payne worried that federal support sources are “scarce” and pointed to other funding that has dropped. These governance structures built over a decade face “a very real risk” of abandonment, Payne cautioned. Payne introduced the Statewide Interoperable Communications Enhancement Act Tuesday to “ensure that states maintain the progress we have made toward achieving interoperability by preserving the governance structures necessary to make the communications technology work.” Such structures will be crucial in the creation of a FirstNet network, he said. Payne also hopes the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act (HR-4289), which unanimously passed the House, will pass the Senate during the lame-duck session of Congress, he said. Ranking member Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., said in his opening statement that he backs the Statewide Interoperable Communications Enhancement Act.

#### **TR Daily (Summary): Payne Introduces Bill to Preserve Role of SWICs**

Rep. Donald M. Payne Jr. (D. N.J.), ranking member of the House Homeland Security Committee’s emergency preparedness, response, and communications subcommittee, introduced legislation today to preserve state interoperability governance structures. “In recent years, States could rely on the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program to support their Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWIC) and other communications governance structures,” said Rep. Payne said in opening remarks at a hearing today on interoperable communications. “But that program has been eliminated. And other sources for Federal support are scarce particularly since the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Area Security Initiative are not funded at the levels they once were.” ... Today’s hearing also focused on the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) and the Office of Emergency Communications at the Department of Homeland Security. Regarding FirstNet, acting General Manager TJ Kennedy cited progress that has been made in the past year, including consultation with states and work on a comprehensive network request for proposal (RFP). “We are gaining momentum each day,” he said. In response to a question from Rep. Susan W. Brooks (R., Ind.), the subcommittee’s chairman, Mr. Kennedy said that FirstNet has completed eight initial state consultations with one more to go this year. He added that 32 states have returned their checklists.

#### **Communications Daily (Summary): FirstNet's TJ Kennedy Slated to Testify Before Congress Tuesday**

FirstNet Acting General Manager TJ Kennedy will testify Tuesday about the state of the network at the House Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee’s hearing on interoperable communications and progress since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Other witnesses include Ronald Hewitt, director of the Homeland Security Department’s Office of Emergency Communications, and Mark Grubb, communications division director of the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security.

#### **TR Daily (Summary): Third Witness Added for Interoperability Hearing**

A Nov. 18 hearing in front of the House Homeland Security Committee’s emergency preparedness, response, and communications subcommittee will also feature Mark Grubb, director of the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security’s Division of

Communications. As TRDaily has reported, the other witnesses will be Ron Hewitt, director of the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Emergency Communications, and First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) acting General Manager TJ Kennedy.

## **AWS-3 Auction 97**

### **Fierce Wireless: Dish, FirstNet, Tower Companies and FCC are the Early Winners in Wildy Successful AWS-3 Auction**

<http://www.fiercewireless.com/story/dish-firstnet-tower-companies-and-fcc-are-early-winners-wildy-successful-aw/2014-11-20>

The FCC's AWS-3 auction, which is still going on, is now more successful than anyone ever dreamed. Before the start of the auction, TMF Associate analyst Tim Farrar predicted the event could raise a total of up to \$14 billion. BTIG analyst Walter Piecyk predicted up to \$16 billion. And New Street Research analyst Spencer Kurn forecast up to \$22 billion. But as of this morning, the auction has raised a total of more than \$24 billion in provisionally winning bids after just six days of bidding. And while there are some indications that activity in the AWS-3 auction is now slowing, some believe the AWS-3 auction could last up to five more weeks. "This auction, while now difficult to predict, is still far from over," Piecyk said in a note to investors last night.

### **TR Daily (Summary): AWS-3 Auction Bidding Hits \$24 Billion; Sale Is Largest In FCC History**

The FCC's AWS (advanced wireless services)-3 auction became the largest in the FCC's history today when bid totals exceeded the \$19.1 billion grossed in the agency's 700 megahertz band auction in 2008 (TRDaily, March 18, 2008). After the 19th and final round for the day, AWS-3 bidding stood at nearly \$24.2 billion, with the total for the 700 MHz band auction being surpassed in the 17th round. The total is the gross figure and does not account for bidding credits that 37 of the sale's 70 bidders are eligible to use. The bidding of auction participants is not public, so it's not known how much of a discount designated entities will get from the bidding credits.

### **National Journal: The Government Just Found the Funds to Give Firefighters High-Speed Internet Everywhere**

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/tech/the-government-just-found-the-funds-to-give-firefighters-high-speed-internet-everywhere-20141118>

The federal government has raised more than enough money to build a nationwide communications network for first responders. The network will help police, firefighters, and other public-safety officials from different agencies communicate with each other during emergencies. It is intended to handle high-speed data, so officials should be able to send photos and videos to each other, helping them coordinate their responses. The Federal Communications Commission said Tuesday that it has raised at least \$10 billion from auctioning the rights to a band of wireless frequencies to cellular carriers. That number is expected to rise as the auction continues. The high-speed communications network, called FirstNet, is estimated to cost \$7 billion. Any auction revenue not used for the network will go toward paying down the federal debt.

**Barron's Tech Trader Daily Blog: DISH's Implied Value Rising, Says BTIG, as FCC Wireless Auction Surges Past Expectations**

<http://blogs.barrons.com/techtraderdaily/2014/11/19/dishs-implied-value-rising-says-btig-as-fcc-wireless-auction-surges-past-expectations/>

Walter Piecyk of BTIG Research [writes in a note out late yesterday](#) that the average bid of \$1.04 per megahertz per POP, which is above what he thought would turn out to be the low end of a range of 75 cents to \$1.25. (Free registration required to read BTIG reports). Some spectrum parcels covering large U.S. wireless markets, notes Piecyk, are running as high as \$2.50 per megahertz per POP. "The auction appears on pace to blow through the top-end of our expected range," writes Piecyk. "This is turning out to be a nice and needed win for the FCC, which has now enabled the funding of FirstNet, a national public safety network; incremental proceeds should now be applied to deficit reduction."

**Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA): TIA Welcomes Successful FCC Auction of AWS-3 Spectrum that will Help with Spectrum Crunch & FirstNet**

<http://www.tiaonline.org/news-media/press-releases/tia-welcomes-aws-3-auction>

The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), the leading association representing the manufacturers and suppliers of high-tech communications networks, today announced that it is pleased that bids in the FCC's ongoing auction of AWS-3 spectrum have exceeded the \$10 billion reserve price for 50 MHz of paired spectrum. The successful outcome of this auction will help mitigate the effects of the spectrum crunch caused by exploding consumer demand for mobile broadband. The auction will also provide significant funding towards the construction of FirstNet, the new national public safety broadband network. Moreover, the 1755-1780 MHz and 2155-2180 MHz bands are globally harmonized, allowing manufacturers to build wireless devices at lower cost while also potentially permitting international roaming more easily.

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